चाहूंगा कि जे. आर.बाई. के संबधं में जो अनुभव मध्य प्रदेश में हुआ था अन्य राज्यों में हो रहा है और पब्लिक एकांउट्स कमेटी ने उसमें कुछ संशोधन और परिवर्तन के लिए सुझाव दिएहैं? क्या उस के आधार पर वे इस योजना को अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के लिए कमेटी बिठाएंगे या किसी टॅक्नीकल कंस्ल्टेंट से इस सबंधं में विचारविमर्श करके पार्लियामेंट को सुचित करेंगे?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Sir, we will definitely take into con- sideration the recommendations of the Consultative Committee meeting, the recommendations of the Standing Committee and also the recommendations of the hon. Member.

Import of spare parts ot IAF

*249. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: †

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spare parts for Air Force are imported;

(b) if so, the quantum of spare parts imported and indigenously manufactured; and

(c) the plan to manufacture spare parts indigenously not only to cut down costs, but also to become self-dependant?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) and (b) During the year 1997-98 spare parts worth Rs. 1652.15 crores have been imported and worth Rs. 1066.67 crores manufactured indigenously.

† The question was actually asked on the poor of the House by Shri O. Rajgopal.

(c) With the aim of achieving the twin goals of self reliance and cutting dowr. costs, efforts are being made to manufacture increasing quantity of spares within the country, by HAL and private agencies. IAF- has taken up major programmes for indigenisation of spares and components required for maintenance of aircraft and helicopters of Russian origin. Inhouse indigenisation is being undertaken at Base Repair Depots. Regular workshops, exhibitions and seminars are also being organised in collaboration with the industry for cooperation and active involvement/participation in the in- digenisation effort. So far, over 27,600 items of fighter aircraft and helicopters of Russian origin have been indigenised.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, this question relates to the import of spare parts 'for the Air Force. We find that even after 50 years of independence, the cost of import is Rs. 1,652 crores more as compared to the cost of items manufactured in the country. Why is there so much gap? Do we have any plan to see that within some stipulated period we can have 100 per cent self-reliance in this matter? Is it possible? Then, he has only mentioned that items worth so many crores of rupees have been, imported. I would like to know what percentage is it. I would also like to know whether the percentage of import is going down or it is going up.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, in so far as the percentage of imports is concerned there is a constant increase in indigenisation. The average process of expansion of indigenisation varies between 5 and 10 per cent. But in so far as the main aspect of the supplementary question is concerned, that is, why we have not been able to indigenise during the last 50 years, there are areas where indigenisation is not difficult; and t**hat** has been done. But there

are areas where the constant techno-logical improvements are taking place partly. We acquire the planes or the helicopters and by the time you indigenise a certain part, there is a new generation aircraft and you are back again to square one. Sir, the number of parts in a fighter aircraft is over a million. When we say that about 27,600 have been indigenised, I know that it is a very, very small number. But there are areas where indigenisation is taking place, particularly where the need is constant. That is why, one sees that, as against imports of Rs. 1652 crores, there have been indigenised parts worth Rs. 1066 crores, which have been used in the course of a year or which have been brought in the course of a year. So, we are not that badly off in terms of meeting our requirements. (Interruptions) The indigenisation process, and the parts that are bought within the country is going upwards and not downwards. (Interruptions).

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM PORTUGAL

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Mem- j bers, I have an announcement to , make.

We have with us, seated in the Special Box, members of a parliamentary delegation from Portugal, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Antonio De Almeidia Santos President of the National Assembly of Portugal.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the leader and other members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary sys tem, our country and our people, anti their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Portu gal. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of Portugal. ..

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS — Contd.Q. No. 249 contd.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, my second supplementary is this. In reply to part (c) of my question, the hon. Minister has stated that indigenisation of spares and components required for maintenance of aircraft and heli-copters of Russian origin is being taken up. I would like to know whether this indigenisatjon process is confined to the spare parts of aircraft which has its origin only in Soviet Russia, or ,we have indigenisation regarding other aircraft from other countries also.

One more point is, you have mentioned that 27,600 items have been manufactured. I would like to know as to what the percentage of the total items that are required will be.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, in so far as the Russion parts being produced by us in larger quantity are concerned, the truth is that we are in a position to manufacture these in much larger quantities. But the indigenisation of spares and parts of the western aircraft has not been at the same speed as of the Russian aircraft. The reason is that we have been having the Russian aircraft for the last 50 years. Therefore, a certain expertise has been acquired and there has also been better collaboration with the Russians. We produce the MIGs. We have been producing helicopters and there has been transfer of technology from Russia. In the process, there has been a lot that our people

team and, therefore, they are able to indigenise. In the case of the aircraft that we have been buying from western countries, there has not been the same kind of agreement. Therefore, to that extent the transfer of technology, or indigenisa-tion has not been at that place.

Sir, regarding the percentage of parts, as the hon. Member has again asked, I said 27,600 is what we have been producing. But a fighter aircraft has over a million parts. Therefore, percentage-wise it is not much. But, I again want to draw the attention of the hon. Member, and of the House to the point that out of the total purchases during 1997-98, if Rs. 1,652 crore was imported and Rs. 1.066 crore was indigenously produced, then we are catching up fairly fast.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reply given by the Government is, of course, very impressive. I would like to know from the Defence Minister whether the percentage of import of indigenously procured components has been static for the last three years or imports are reducing and more and more locally produced components are being used. That is, the percentage of the locally produced components is increasing.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
Sir, I had made that point earlier. Each year the process of indigehisa-tion is on the rise by anywhere between 5 and 10 per cent.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Sir, the fleet of planes of the whole of the Air Force are ageing. Already MIG-21 have become old. MIG-25 aircraft were also purchased long back. They not only need spareparts but also need full modernisation and rejuvination. 1 would like to know the steps that are being taken in this direction. Sir, previously we had an agreement with Russia under which we had repair and overhauling facilities. Sir, in the whole region this type of aircraft are supplied. We would have benefited much, if we had agreed with the Russians previously that the overhauling and repair facilities would be located in India. I believe that facility is not there. Sir, self-sufficiency is very very long overdue in this matter. This is a very serious affair. Our defence and security enviroment is changing and the threat to our country is increasing. Therefore, my only request and suggestion to the hon. Minister is that he should look into this matter very seriously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a question. This is a suggestion for action.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :
Sir, through you, I would like to seek a piece of information from the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister has stated that during 1997-98, spareparts worth Rs. 1,066.67 crores were manufactured indigenously. I would like to know how much had been by the public sector and how much by the private sector and what the percentage of the different items is, or whether this is the worth of one single item. Similarly, I would like to know whether the Government plans to encourage private industries, particularly in the small-scale sector, to develop different kinds of aircraft sgare-pairts that are required for defence.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
Sir, both private and public sectors are involved in the manufacture of spare-parts for all our defence needs, not just the aircraft. Yes, there is a move to see that the private sector is involved in a greater measure in areas where it is capable of getting itself involved. So far as the question on the ratio of public sector and private sector production during the last year is concerned, I do not have the statistics. For that I shall require a separate notice.

Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know whether the parts that are produced are the one of a particular category alone so that the money we have paid for the quantum is taken care of by that volume. Sir, I would like to make the point again that 27,600 items are being made by us. Our indigenisation has reached that level. Therefore, our requirements in certain categories are met by us through indigenisation.

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA : Sir, I have two very serious questions on the basis of some information that was provided to us recently. I would like to know whether the spare parts that are being ordered are on the basis of drawings and specifications that are provided by the Ministry or they are just on an ad hoc basis. My information is that translation from Russian to English has not been completed, or drawings and specifications do not exist with the Depots that are ordering these spares.

My second question is whether the spares which are lying there worh thousands of crores of rupees meet the specifications or they are just junk. Sir, I understand that they do not meet the specifications. They are just lying there and cannot be utilised. These are two specific questions on the basis of specific » information provided to us by the seniormost officers in the Armed Forces.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman. Sir, I require notice to answer this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all right. He needs notice to answer i your question.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Defence Minister has agreed that indigenisation is being carried out by,. two ways. One by maufacturing ancL the other by purchasing goods within " the country. But the manufacturers in India are actually facing some practical difficulty. The practical difficulty is that there are three separate quality control cells which are being maintained by the Defence Department for the Army, the Nevy and the Air Force. There are three separate quality control mechanisms. They have laid down criteria and norms for each cell. I would like to know from the hon. Defence Minister whether the Government would come foward to assure this House that they would amalgamate these three quality control cells into one cell for the benefit of the manufacturers in the country.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a suggestion hich can be considered.

श्री लाजपत राय : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि एयर फोर्स की ओर से समय-समय पर पाट्र्स और इक्विनेटस के आर्डर आते हैं मांग आती है और यह मालूम होता है कि ऐसी मांगे जो होती है, वह टाइम बाउण्ड होती है, मगर इररेवलेवेंट को जाती है । इसके क्या कारण हैं और इसके क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ताकि आगे ऐसा न हो ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chirman, Sir, this is a separate question. I need no*i *t* for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Next Question No. 250. Shrimati Kamla Sinha.

Potable water in Aurangabad village

*250. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Indian Express, dated the 13th October. 1998, regarding self-immolaion of person for failure of his efforts to secure portable water in Aurangabad village^ and